gratis.

(81)

The Caſe of Edmond Prideaux Eſq;

THAT the Borough of *Taunton* is an Antient Borough by Preſcription, and time out of mind hath ſent two Burgeſſes to Sit in Parliament, which have been choſen by the Houſe-keepers thereof not receiving Relief.

That in purſuance of a Writ under the Great Seal of *England*, a Precept Iſſued from the Sheriff of the County of *Somerſet*, directed to the Mayor of the ſaid Borough for the Election of two Burgeſſes to Serve for the ſaid Borough in this preſent Parliament.

That after the date of the ſaid Writ, and before the time of Election, ſeveral Briberies, Threats and Promiſes, and other Illegal Practices were uſed to procure Votes for Sir *John Cutler*, and to deter others from Voting for *Edmond Prideaux* Eſq; and *John Trenchard* Eſq; particularly ſeveral Notorious Riots being committed in the ſaid Borough, thoſe that promiſed to Vote for Sir *John Cutler* were diſcharged without any puniſhment; and ſome that would have Voted for the ſaid Mr. *Prideaux* and Mr. *Trenchard* were committed to Goal without Bail or Mainpriſe, upon a pretended Burglary: whereas it appeared plainly on their Tryal, that no Burglary was committed, but only to keep them from Voting for the ſaid Mr. *Prideaux* and Mr. *Trenchard*; and they were offered a Diſcharge if they would give their Votes for Sir *John Cutler*.

That *William Turner*, then Mayor of the ſaid Borough, did declare before the ſaid Election, That he was reſolved to Return Sir *John Cutler*, although he had not the Majority of Voices of the Electors.

That the ſaid Mayor combining with the Friends and Agents of Sir *John Cutler*, did Erect a Booth in an unuſual part of the ſaid Borough, where they endeavoured to ſhut out ſuch of the Inhabitants as came to Vote for the ſaid Mr. *Prideaux* and Mr. *Trenchard*, and admitted many of the Voters for Sir *John Cutler*, who behaved themſelves very rudely and inſolently at the time of Election.

That the Mayor admitted no Clerk to take the Poll on the behalf of the ſaid Mr. *Prideaux* and Mr. *Trenchard*, and hath ever ſince denied them a Copy thereof.

That the better to colour their intended deſign, ſeveral Strangers were brought in by the Friends and Agents of the ſaid Sir *John Cutler* in a tumultuous manner; whereupon the ſaid Mayor did ſhut up the Poll, and refuſed to take the Names of ſuch as were ready to Vote for the ſaid Mr. *Prideaux* and Mr. *Trenchard*; 231 of which were afterwards Polled for the ſaid Mr. *Prideaux* and Mr. *Trenchard* in the preſence of Five Members of this Honourable Houſe.

That notwithſtanding all the ſaid Practices, the ſaid Mr. *Prideaux* and Mr. *Trenchard* had about Fifty more Voices on the Poll than the ſaid Sir *John Cutler*; but the ſaid Mayor nevertheleſs did unjuſtly Return Sir *John Cutler*, together with the ſaid Mr. *Trenchard*, although the ſaid Mr. *Prideaux* and Mr. *Trenchard* were duly Elected Burgeſſes of the ſaid Borough.